

# ASPIRA, Inc. of Pennsylvania

526 W. GIRARD AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19123 (215) WA 3-2717-2718



LYDIA HERNANDEZ VELEZ, ESQ

Chairperson

EMANUEL ORTIZ

Executive Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES

MARCH 20, 1984

#### PRESENT:

Lydia Hernández-Velez  
Roland Albino  
Isa Velez  
Ana Pujols-McKee  
Andres Perez  
Nereida Saez

Daniel Concepción  
Melba Rodriguez-Cherico  
Mario Rivera  
Edward Concepción  
Nitza I. Quiñones

#### EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Lucy Rivera  
Bernadette Torres  
Mario Powell-González

#### UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

NONE

#### STAFF:

Emanuel Ortiz

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Carmen N. Colón

On March 20, 1984, a meeting of the Board of Directors was convened at 5:30 P.M. by the Chairperson. The minutes of the prior meeting were corrected to read:

- pg. 1 "joining" corrected to "joining"
- pg. 3 "Jose Lebron will be" corrected to read  
"Jose Lebron will be asked to be..."

Following these corrections, the minutes were unanimously approved.

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Carmen N. Colón has requested and has been granted a six-months leave of absence for personal reasons, effective immediately.

Ms. Hernández-Velez introduced John Marcantuono, Deputy Director for United Way's Agency Relation. Mr. Marcantuono made a presentation about United Way. He distributed three(3) handouts to supplement his talk. A narrative of United Ways history was made. United Way's function is essentially to raise money and then to properly allocate funds to member agencies. Money raised this past year total approximately \$40 million.

Money is distributed as follows:

1. By a citizen review process. This accounts for 60 - 65% of the money. See green and yellow hand-out sheets.
2. Special funding agreement - participant cannot do fundraising during specific months in lieu of receiving United Way monies.
3. Donor Option Program.

There are 150 agencies that are participants of the United Way.

Mr. Marcantuono indicated that the brochure, "How to Become a Member" is going to change to read "How to become a "participating" or "affiliate agency" for a particular time and/or for a specific reason. See yellow handout for basic guidelines of eligibility. However, even though an agency may not meet the guideline requirements, United Way will give them non-financial assistance.

Deadline of May 1st for admission will be changed to either September or October. Funding will start June, 1985 for this year's admissions.

Following Mr. Marcantuono's presentation a series of questions and answers was entertained:

- Q.: If we apply for membership now, what will happen?
- A.: We will be evaluated with all new applicants for funding in 1985.
- Q.: What is the relationship between the tiers and fund-raising policies?
- A.: Hard to say, however there are going to be different types of relationships between United Way and Agency allowing all types of fundraising except with regard to work-place. Agency will be allowed to do fund-

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raising in Corporations, etc. There are attempts to simplify fundraising except during the months of October and November.

Q.: What is the participation expected of Agencies?

A.: Everyone is expected to actively participate in the success of fundraising for United Way, be it financially or with people power.

United Way's average support of an individual agency's budget is between 18 - 19%.

Q.: Are there any "strings" attached to receiving United Way funding?

A.: See green and yellow sheets for accountability requirements including staff and Board composition.

Q.: What benefits and/or disadvantages are there in membership?

A.: See handouts. However, these include money, training, fundraising, management seminars, liability insurance, and pension funds, just to name a few.

Q.: Are there any repercussions of ASPIRA suing another participating agency?

A.: Not necessarily. This situation has already occurred.

Q.: What recourse is there if an agency is refused admission because of an interview wherein repercussions against it by another agency or individual plays a key role.

A.: There is a formal grievance procedure; a professional advisory committee.

There is a need for more hispanic staff at United Way. Presently there are 5-6 vacancies. United Way has an interest in hispanic leadership and outreach.

Upon completion of his presentation, the Chairperson thanked Mr. Marcantuono. The meeting was adjourned for a short recess in order that the Chairperson and the Executive Director could escort the guest speaker out of the building.

Upon re-convening the meeting, the Chairperson brought the membership up to date on events since the press conference when the results of the 3 year study were released. A number of contacts resulted with individuals and/or leaders of various groups or organizations. In the main, many questions have surfaced in these

contacts which expressed:

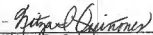
1. Concerns arising in response to news accounts of the press conference.
2. Reports of gossip circulating in the community.

Ms. Hernández-Velez indicated that Dr. Constance Clayton, Superintendent of the Philadelphia School District, had expressed sympathetic concern with the 3 year study and the question it raises. Finally, because of the questions/concerns and in order to spell out ASPIRA's position, the Chairperson and the Executive Director will collaborate in preparing an OP-ED article for the newspapers.

Ms. Hernandez-Velez reported that Carmen Colon had requested a leave of absence for personal reasons. Andy Perez was asked to volunteer to take over Ms. Colon's duties as Vice-Chair of Finance and to complete her term which finishes in June. Mr. Perez accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Nitzia I. Quinones  
Secretary

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